To the Sanitary Committee of the Urban District Council of Milnrow.

Gentlemen;

In presenting to you my fifth
Annual report I regret to state that it is not so satisfactory
as some of the others have been.

The death rate for I904 is I9'08 which is considerably above the average for the last IO years and the highest we have had for four years. The chief causes of the increase are Measles, Whooping Cough, Phthisis, and Lung diseases. On the other hand it is satisfactory to note that there has not been a single death from fever during I904. The death rates from Zymotic diseases, Phthisis, and diseases of the respiratory organs and also the infantile death rate are all higher than last year while the birth rate is lower.

Birth rate.

During I904, ISI births were registered 90 being males and 91 females, as against I89 last year.

The birth rate for 1904 was 21'54

: 1903 was 22'77.

The average for the last IO years was 21'64.

Death rate.

fever.

14

During I904 there were I60 deaths with a death rate of I9'08.

: I903 : II5 : I3'85.

The average for the last IO years was I34 deaths with a death rate of I6'34.

Zymotic death rate. There were 50 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year as against 58 in I903 and 45 in I902.

The diseases and the deaths resulting therefrom were as follows Smallpox I case 0 death

Diphtheria I3 cases 4 deaths

Erysipelas I4 : I :

Scarlet

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The average for the last IO years was \$I'dd.

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Zymotic de bists There were 80 cases of infectious diseases notified

during the year as against 58 in 1908 and 46 in 1902.

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Enteric 7 cases 0 deaths.

Puerperal I case I death.

Measles caused 7 deaths and Whooping Cough 6.

The Zymotic death rate was 2'47 in 1904 and 1'08 in 1903. The increase being due to the deaths from Measles, Whooping cough, and Diphtheria. It is to be noted that of the I7 deaths due to these diseases I5 were in children under 5 years old and only 2 in those over 5 years. The infant department of one school was closed on account of Measles and it is to be feared that the schools are the great cause of the spread of these diseases. From a hygienic point of view it seems to be a mistake to send children to school so early as is at present the case. It is highly probable that if the minimum age were raised the children would gain in health, physique and stamina and would be quite as good from an educational stand point. I am glad to be able to report that there has been no death in the district from Scarlet fever for 2 years nor one from Enteric fever for 4 years. The case of Smallpox was removed to the Oldham Smallpox hospital and by vaccination and disinfection the outbreak was confined to one house.

Phthisis.

Phthisis caused I3 deaths this year and IO in I903. Tubercular diseases other than Phthisis caused II deaths. The Phthisis death rate is 2'82 which is far higher than it ought to be and I must again call the attention of the public to the dangerous habit of spitting in Mills, Workshops, and in public places especially on the part of those suffering from Phthisis.

General 7 deaths in I904 and 6 in I903. diseases. caused THE RESERVE 22 Bronchitis

16

7 Pneumonia II

7 Heart disease . II

2 Accidents 6

37 General diseases 50 :

Enteric 7 case

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Puerperal I case I desth.

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General diseases 50 : 87

The death rate from diseases of the respiratory organs was 3'88 this year and 2'77 in 1903. This increase has been a great factor in raising the death rate this year and may be put down to the severe weather in the early part of the year and the fog at the end.

Infantile death rate.

The number of deaths under one year of age per 1000 births was I72 which was 40 more than last years rate and 3I more tha the average for the last ten years. The increase this year is due to a greater number of deaths from Measles, Whooping-Cough, diarrhoea and Lung diseases. This infantile death rate is not only higher than usual but it is far higher than it ought to be or than it would be if children were properly fed. During the seige of Paris and also during the great cotton famine in Lancashire while the general death rate was raised the infantile death rate was much reduced because in each case mothers were forced to give their infant the breast as they could not get cows milk. At the present time the infantile death rate among the Jews in our large towns is much below the general infantile death rate in the same towns, because the Jewish children are generally breast fed whilst the Gentiles are too often bottle fed. It is a great mistake to give young infants starchy food at too early an age as this is the cause of many deaths and much disease, and checks the growth and development of the child. It is to be feared that a serious check of this kind in early life is never completely got over but that the physique and stamina are permanently effected.

The area of the District is 5183 acres, the census population was 824I in I90I while the estimated population for I904 is 8400. During the year a few more drains have been connected up to the main sewer. This work is now all but entirely completed and practically the whole of the district is efficiently sewered. The sewers are flushed at regular monthly intervals and the streets are regularly scavenged by the councils men.

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During the past year two large filters have been constructed at the Sewage works. One is completed and the other is being filled with clinker, when both are in working order the effluents from the works which have been fair during the alterations, will it is to be hoped give no cause for complaints.

There are now over IOOO closet pails in use in the populous parts of the district. These are emptied regularly by the councils men and the excreta disposed of to the farmers.

The water supply of the district, which is obtained from the Corporations of Rochdale and Oldham and from springs have been generally satisfactory. Slaughter-houses, tripe boiling places, dairies and cowsheds have been inspected and their cleanliness white-washing &c has been generally satisfactory.

During the year the Inspector has taken 37 Smoke observations and has issued 5 legal notices in cases where the limit of 8 minutes per hour of black smoke has been exceeded.

The construction of the Joint hospital for infectious diseases has been begun.

The paving, flagging and kerbing of several side streets mentioned in previous reports has been finished.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully;

John Chadwick, M, O, H.

February 23rd/05.

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Yours fathfully.

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John Chadwick, M. O. H.

Pebruary Sard/06.

Factories and Workshops.

During the past year the Factories and Workshops have been inspected. The fire escapes now seem to be satisfactory.

Seven extra closets have been provided at factories and in another case an old cesspool has been closed and the closets put on the pail system.

Thirty bakehouses have been visited, Formerly there were four underground ones. Two have been abandoned and the other two having been improved certificate have been granted in these cases.

I wish to thank the inspector for the kelp he has given me during the year.

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Yours faithfully,

John Chadwick, M, O, H.

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February 23rd/06.